a 31

? 19 July. 1911

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

Wed.

Be loved,
This is the first of the new series of letters, which is written for you only; & Clive shall have letters for dinner only. & so we shall all profit, by the pain in passion. I suppose he described that vast melancholy party. What added to my depression was the fact that every watery Matron & Victim did, as well as bald old Gentlemen, invariably began "How Vanessa? Where's Vanessa?" All I could do was to invent a disease for you, which puzzled both. Only. Half the child, I said, Booth Lonely. had miscarried in London - the other Lady, the legs presumably, miscarried at Brooke. This intrigued her considerably,

as the case was not the same as Dodos: however
if for take the greatest care for six months she
thinks there may be no danger in bearing a
child next year — indeed sometimes one finds
that that is the best cure yet — My dodo
se se. It was strangely like a
Winkworth party, only we were all 10
years older. I was glad to find how
they are as rapid & commonplace as we
used to find them, so that we right to hate
them. The old passion to fly before
them overcame me. NYPL Imagine Mamy
Drifting — Bella trumpeting — Mrs Humphry
Ward Shrilling — Imogen miaowing —
Meg flopping — Aunt Minna — She was
almost impervious from her obvious
nearness to death.

I have been to tea with nelly this

a31ii

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

afternoon. There is no doubt that she is the best of those elderly aristocrats. I was very happy with her, sitting in the garden. What mind she has is quite honest. She told me that we had behaved very badly to Kitty. Said that Kitty was obsolete, & had to be dropped, but I denied that she had been dropped. She said that both Kitty & Leo were 20 years behind the times; & gave me to understand that Kitty is a foolish thimble-petted woman, living in a swarm of smart people she does not care about, but quite happy. I is a good deal above that. I feel a certain pathos in seeing these people

again. Nothing seems to have happened,
that one can talk about. However
She reads a good deal. She has the
illegitimate niece to stay with her. She
also has several friendly charwomen &
crossing sweepers, but she rarely patronizes
them as Kitty used to.
We went over Bedford Sq. this afternoon.
We matted ent rooms on paper. It would
exactly do; the one drawback is that
the 2 front rooms may be noisy. Duncan
is going to have a great garden room, —
I am to have a tremendous square room,
at the back. There is a studio for you,
adjoining a W. C. Savage has
asked me to dine, on 4 night. to meet Jean,
Rackham. Sharkey! Are you feeling
well?

HAMILL 2/16/70

a.32

21 July? 1911

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

Friday.

Beloved,

It is great devotion to write, as he
last it some thing awful.
We had our great speech yesterday.
It was all very odd. First of all
it was rather strained; we lay under
the trees & circled the Bedford Sq.
plan. Then we walked.
W. & he began lamenting his lack of
noble souls. We discussed love-
women in the abstract. At last
last he sat down & said it with
you felt me if you ever felt me
love?" I asked him whether
he knew about the affair.
He said "Clive told me a good deal
which made me angry, but can be
helped. Then I said I would tell

him about it if he really wanted to know,"
not out of curiosity. He said he
wanted to find out what I felt, & I
would be glad to hear anything.
Gave him an abstract. Then he said
"Do you want to have children & love in
the normal way?" I said "yes."
He said "I do care for you very much"
I said "But you're such a baby?"
He said, "There are such dreadful
complications" I said "what" He said
"You live in a hornets nest. Beside
marriage is so difficult - Will you let me
wait?" Dont hurry me."
I said "There is no reason why we
shouldn't be friends - & why we should
change. Stop & get agitated." He said
"Of course it's wonderful as it is."
Then we went rambling on: & I gathered

a 32 ii

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

that he felt he could not let himself
fall in love because he doubted what
I felt; & he also was puzzled by
parts of my character. He said I made
things in to wabs, & might turn fiercely
upon him for his faults. I owned to
great egoism & absorption & vanity &
all my vices. He said Clive had
told him dreadful stories to illustrate my
faults. (for Gods sake, dont repeat this)
I said that I liked him, & thought we
could be friends. I tried to make this
clear. Then he talked a great deal
about you - how noble & divine you were -
how you frightened him - how he wished
to talk to you. how he had an
aesthetic love for you - &c - &c. We
talked of general things after that - his
Gout a good deal - & then I had tea &
went home, & went to the Opera. There

was an enormous crowd of cultivated ones: -
Sangers, Forster, Rupert, Ka James. Wolff - ec -
Walter walked home, & came in & drank
tea, & Adrian was out. He
began again about our relationship & said
he would like to live near me, but didn't
add much. It is NYPL hungry, because he is
always trying to find out what I feel, &
I can only talk about the beauty of
friendship. Of course I liked him
much better than I have ever done, as he
was quite direct & really felt a good
deal (useless I'm too vain to judge). But
the thing is left in an uncomfortable state.
He wants to come to Firle in September.
I do like him, but the prospect of many
very long talks, rather affects me. There is
something pathetic in him. He is
desperately afraid of making a fool of himself.
I get conscious that his caution is a little
absurd.

(a 32 iii)

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

all I can remember – at least the gist of it.
No doubt some further compliments to you
will be washed up. Oh how I'm
damned by Roger! Refinement! & we in
a Post Impressionist age.
I observe any compliments for clinching the
last one. By the way, the last
thing W. said before we were interrupted
was that he could not see that I
had a single fault! "Not even as a
wife?" I said "No: not even as a wife."
In my opinion he is in love with me: but
that you must hush up.
I'm in great difficulties with my
engagements. Silly went away; & I
think she must have written to Firle – If
she puts me off. I might come down

a 32 iii

(if fm 'll have me)

next Thursday or Friday for the night.
Cave comes on Monday, & won't say for
how long. Then Jessage asks me for
Thursday, & I accepted for Wednesday.
Jean is in a fury — flings the telephone
from her ear — because she thinks I'm
trying to avoid dining with her —
Sayon has become very pathetic about
Bayreuth. NYPL Altogether, it's a horse's nest
as W. said. He meant that was buried in
the centre of intrigues, which distressed him, &
he asked about Harry & Roger & Desmond.
He asked whether I thought flirt if I married.
I said "not if I were in love with my
husband." But that was bold.
Are fm better? Does this heat hurt fm?
At lunch I composed fm with a South American
forest, with panthers sleeping beneath the trees.
I also sang a passionate vision of our love — for
fm, I mean.

V B.

HARVARD 2/16/70

a 33

? 25 July 1911 ?

Yesterday I had a long talk with Lytton about the Society in the course of which he said "There is just a something about them — 29, & then Giggles."

V.

Fitzroy Square,

W.

That was not the way to talk.

I implore Duncan Has dined A. I imagine a great orgy on the river to night.

Yr B.

Beloved,

I'm sorry if I wrote, as I gather is your opinion with more maggots in my head than wits. Reports of talk, I agree, can't be taken as Evidence; I was going by this. W. told me he had talked to Adrian, who had given a sketch of my Villa. "But," said W. "it was done kindly." "Clive blackened you with his Horaces." Then he told me some of the things Clive had said. They were mixed with rhapsody, but they were unpleasant. I was angry at the impression it had made on W. "After all, why should he be biassed?" Then Clive spanned with Lytton for that for that is definite enough, & must have come before Somehow

leaser: but I dont mean to quarrel, only to
cry out "God!! the Gnats are biting!"
as for do, almost perpetually throughout a
summer evening. Kiss my mouth,
Beloved, for did taste it.
I have just come back from Fiesole, where
I had an interesting time with Lina:
She is a woman of great magnanimity. I
(for (as he was saying up to your side) she
ever said two things in praise of you -
said how great your beauty was, & your
dignity of character. NYPL We talked
incessantly - I gathered that she has had
several proposals, but, cherishing the image of
a deceased father, who kept a school. She
refused them all. doesn't it seem
to you odd that she has never told either

a 33 ii

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

Sophie & Margaret Davies about any
of them - "but we have sometimes
discussed marriage in an abstract way."
She had brought down a handsome reticule,
into which the Drops bits of torn lace from
time to time, & this she takes away on
visits. So the sat stitching with an
expression such as Mary has
water colour sketching, & listened to a
magnificent tirade which I delivered upon
life in general. She has a calm
interest in copulation (having got over
her dislike gnawing it by the need of
discussing Sophie's symptoms with a
male doctor) & this led us to the
revelation of such georges indecencies. To
my surprise, She has always had an
intense dislike of him; & used to say

"Whew - for heavy creature" when he came in
& began fondling me on my sneak
when I got to the bedroom scene, she dropped
her face, & gasped like a benevolent gudgeon.
By bedtime she said she was feeling sweet
sick, & did go to the W.C. where, needless to
say, had no water in it.
the Bedford Sq. plan with her, the only
would for [illegible] rotter, but she thought we
should get thirty. If Adrian is with you,
would for talk him for 2 or 3 days? people
have been to see the house, & one liked it so
much that he was going straight back to
Maples. Of course, I only read the moment
when we left it; & the thing becomes serious.
Sophie & Maud! Do you think it
would be a good plan to expose a letter,
explaining it, & so break the shock?
I found a letter from Lily at Firle,

a 33 iii

29,
Fitzroy Square,
W.

who can have her one some time later
so I could come down to you on Thursday
if that does. I am also
smoothed in one of my hottest books with
Jean. It is about a Female at Saraje:
She says I offered to go on Wednesday,
knowing that she couldn't so that day;
knowing that she couldn't so that day;
has showed callousness, brutality, immorality,
lack of justice (which one can see in your
writings") a a "truly" Freudul
lack of consideration for the feelings a
desires of your friends". To this I
answered in sober fact; with one
plain curse. I found a reply at Fitz,
which I read to Cave. It was a
masterpiece. It seems likely that
one will have to give her a sharp rap —
the sort you give me; only she would
die, which I manage to survive.

I have also had 3 letters from her. What
to say to him. I dont know. He want to
come here. I have written to say
what I can only repeat what I said before,
that it seems not worth while to come
up & hear that. However, as I said he
could choose for himself. I must
let him — this time. With all my pros & cons
vanity, my
vampire like friction & (?) know my faults
by this time) I dont see that I can go on
letting him praise me, unless I think fair in
love — that seems as though one said unless
I grow a beak — there no doubt there is
vanity in this too.

I would not write so much & act this
time for no one to talk to, & the
right is to let that I can play, or read.
Later [illegible] suddenly in the train
I [illegible] independently?
Then thinking of Virginia & [illegible] next time we meet a baby
answered "Infinitely" keeps with me. She

NYPL
HAMILL 2/16/70

(a 34)
V.

? 15 August 1911

Little Talland House,
Firle, Lewes,
Sussex.

Tuesday.

Beloved,

I am very sorry about Quentin. It does seem abominable that he should have all these bothers, & I'm afraid that you've not feeling very well. Your honey-buzzard. I wonder if your affairs have settled.

It is very melancholy that we can't come, but we must fix on holes in October, when this country will be even uiller, & we can carry our lunch to the top of the downs. I've just heard from Fiona Comford, who is staying at Forest Row with Lily & wants me to go there, or to come here — its too annoying — I could have had you & Roger as well.

I am cursing domesticity too, but only in a very mild way. The servants have arrived, & make everything homelier & leary-footed. Why we have them, I can't think. There is always a certain amount of scrambling to be lived down, because of the dirt & the kitchen &c. But I warn this is a snack bite to your miseries. I suppose that through there is a kind of unity in marriage (barring children) which one doesn't get from liaisons. I'm thinking a good deal, at intervals, about marriage. My quarrel with it is that the pace is so slow, when you are two people. As a painter, I believe you are much less conscious of the drone of daily life than I am, as a writer. You are a painter. I think a good deal about you, for purposes of my own, & this seems to me clear. This explains your simplicity.

(a 34 ii)

Little Talland House,
Firle, Lewes,
Sussex.

What have you to do with all this turmoil?
What you want is a studio where you
can see things. If this is wrong,
you might send me a telegram. Good!
I shall enjoy talking to you again.
I saw as much of the strike as anyone
saw. They said there would be fewer
trains at Victoria; as a matter of fact
there was an extra one, & they were
punctual. One or two stations were
held by soldiers, who lay on their elbows
smoking; & there was a soldier by a
signal box. Otherwise there was no
difference, except for empty trains standing
about. All this was what I foresaw.
Rupert tried to work up some socialist
enthusiasm. He does not eat meat, except
when he stays here, & lives very cheaply.

There was a great wedding here on Saturday. I found a note from George in the dining room. "Beloved Old Great - We have come over for Monk Bretton's wedding & hoped to have tea with you" They had mentioned Margaret's title to Mrs Stephens who was a good deal impressed. I have great luck in missing them.

Saxon writes that he wants to come over here from Haywards Heath where he has to spend what remains of his holiday with his parents poor wretch. I gather that the whole of Bayreuth was rather a failure, as far as the music went. It is detestable. hearing servants moving about. I/sit it a good argument against Seend that it doesn't suit two children. I wish you'd come Straight to Studland. When would you like me to come there? I thought I could take a room. I do hope the brats are better, Beloved Creature.

Yr B.

HAMILL 2/16/70

(a 35)

(Spring 1913?)

TELEPHONE,
7257 CITY.

38,
Brunswick Square,
W.C.

Asheham.

Thursday.

Beloved,

I hope Alix is all right & that you haven't had to go down to Send. This is to impose some miserable duties upon you, which however, you needn't do.

Could you send the day library books back to day. 96 Mount St. W. I think you've got 3. Could you give directions about book case, so that if we called we could get them. They are badly wanted here, but we dont want to buy more than necessary. We got one Earthenware pot down

Ransome refuses to pump unless we give him
5/ as you did - So the F.s. have
stopped in again - a they all seem
violently at war.

With such labour that we shant
attempt other. Also, Mr. F:
buys breadpots which, if they had
their bottoms pierced, wd. really
do better. The garden does
you great credit - numerous
daffodils, tulips, stocks, a nameless
leaves - also a few blue flower.
We are now going to buy a Rhododendron
hedge to put against the fence. a dammer
seeds. Saxon is here, in difficulties
with his bath. He stays behind after
every meal to rinse them. An
aeroplane has just flown over the
house - it makes a noise like a
motor bus. We may meet
again, a we may not. but I do not
forget the scene & passionate love which
you did not succeed in opening - thank
you do your best.

yrs WW

69/52/21 MMM